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**OUR MISSION** is to improve the quality of life of people who have psoriasis, arthritis. Through education and advocacy, we promote awareness and unlock access to treatment and support research that will lead to effective management and a cure.

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## Treatment Overview

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## Topical steroids

## Potencies of topical steroids

Topical steroid medications come in various strengths, ranging from very strong, or superpotent (Class 1), very weak, or least potent (Class 7). Once a person has stopped responding to a steroid of a particular strength or potency, it is unlikely he or she will respond to any brand of steroid at an equal or lower strength unless an extended period of time has elapsed. The potency chart below provides the potencies of a variety of steroid medications used to treat psoriasis.

Generally, the stronger the steroid, the more effective it is in clearing psoriasis, but the risk of side effects also greater. The base, or formulation, of a steroid medication can also influence how much medication penetrates the tissue. Steroids come in a variety of bases, such as creams, ointments, gels, sprays, solutions, lotions, foam and tape.

## Potency chart

The following potency chart categorizes brand-name topical steroid medications along with the name of the corresponding generic drug. The list positions these medications according to their potency. The list may be comprehensive.

BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME
<b>CLASS 1 - Superpotent</b>	
Clobex Lotion, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Cormax Cream/Solution, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Diprolene Gel/Ointment, 0.05%	Belamethasone dipropionate
Olux Foam, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Psorcon Ointment, 0.05%	Difforaseone diacetate
Temovate Cream/Ointment/Solution, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Ultravate Cream/Ointment, 0.05%	Halobetasol propionate
<b>CLASS 2 - Potent</b>	
Cyclocort Ointment, 0.1%	Amcinonide
Diprolene Cream AF, 0.05%	Belamethasone dipropionate
Diprosone Ointment, 0.05%	Belamethasone dipropionate
Elocon Ointment, 0.1%	Mometasone furoate
Florone Ointment, 0.05%	Difforaseone diacetate
Halog Ointment/Cream, 0.1%	Halcinonide
Lidex Cream/Gel/Ointment, 0.05%	Fluocinonide
Maxiflor Ointment, 0.05%	Difforaseone diacetate

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Maxivate Ointment, 0.05%	Betamethasone dipropionate
Psorcon Cream 0.05%	Difforaseone diacetate
Topicort Cream/Ointment, 0.25%	Desoximetasona
Topicort Gel, 0.05%	Desoximetasona
<b>CLASS 3 - Upper Mid-Strength</b>	
Aristocort A Ointment, 0.1%	Triamcinolone acetonide
Cutivate Ointment, 0.005%	Fluticasone propionate
Cyclocort Cream/Lotion, 0.1%	Amcinonide
Diprosone Cream, 0.05%	Betamethasone dipropionate
Florone Cream, 0.05%	Difforaseone diacetate
Lidex-E Cream, 0.05%	Fluocinonide
Luxiq Foam, 0.12%	Betamethasone valerate
Maxiflor Cream, 0.05%	Difforaseone diacetate
Maxivate Cream/Lotion, 0.05%	Betamethasone dipropionate
Topicort Cream, 0.05%	Desoximetasona
Valisone Ointment, 0.1%	Betamethasone valerate
<b>CLASS 4 - Mid-Strength</b>	
Aristocort Cream, 0.1%	Triamcinolone acetonide
Cordran Ointment, 0.05%	Flurandrenolide
Derma-Smoother/FS Oil, 0.01%	Fluocinolone acetonide
Elocon Cream, 0.1%	Mometasone furoate
Kenalog Cream/Ointment/Spray, 0.1%	Triamcinolone acetonide
Synalar Ointment, 0.025%	Fluocinolone acetonide
Uticort Gel, 0.025%	Betamethasone benzoate
Westcort Ointment, 0.2%	Hydrocortisone valerate
<b>CLASS 5 - Lower Mid-Strength</b>	
Cordran Cream/Lotion/Tape, 0.05%	Flurandrenolide
Cutivate Cream, 0.05%	Fluticasone propionate
DermAtop Cream, 0.1%	Prednicarbate
DesOwen Ointment, 0.05%	Desonide
Diprosone Lotion, 0.05%	Betamethasone dipropionate
Kenalog Lotion, 0.1%	Triamcinolone acetonide
Locoid Cream, 0.1%	Hydrocortisone butyrate
Pandel Cream 0.1%	Hydrocortisone probutate
Synalar Cream, 0.025%	Fluocinolone acetonide
Uticort Cream/Lotion, 0.025%	Betamethasone benzoate

Valisone Cream/Ointment, 0.1%	Betamethasone valerate
Westcort Cream, 0.2%	Hydrocortisone valerate
CLASS 6 - Mild	
Aclovale Cream/Ointment, 0.05%	Alclometasone dipropionate
DesOwen Cream, 0.05%	Desonide
Synalar Cream/Solution, 0.01%	Fluocinonide acetoneide
Tridesilon Cream, 0.05%	Desonide
Valisone Lotion, 0.1%	Betamethasone valerate
CLASS 7 - Least Potent	
Topicals with hydrocortisone, dexamethasone, methylprednisolone and prednisolone	

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#### Related links

- [Topical steroids](#)
- [Internal use of steroids](#)
- [Methods of using topical steroids](#)
- [Side effects of topical steroids](#)
- [Tips for using topical steroids](#)

